



GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

LEGISLATIVE & POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES September 4, 2008

Council Members, Liaisons & Committee Participants Present

Bill Engler (Chair), Kati Bates, George Evanoff, Joyce Finkelstein, Paul Herrmann, Marilyn Johnson, Sharon McKinley (Outgoing Chair), Doyle Meredith, Bernadette Polley, Barry Spiker, Gregg Kiely, Pam Stevenson

Council Members Not Present

Bernadine Hoffman

Council Staff Present

Melanie Starns, Cathy De Lisa, Dan Plumhoff, Sylvia Chuka

Guests Present

Virginia Brant, Phillip Carbona, Jay Crosby, Kelly Griffith, Ellie Gursten, Joel Millman, Don Ritchie, Sigrid Whitman

Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Minutes

Committee Chair Sharon McKinley called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m., and a welcome and introduction period followed. Council Chair Paul Herrmann stated that Mr. Bill Engler will be taking over as the acting Chair for the Legislative and Policy Coordinating Committee, effective immediately, and that Mrs. McKinley will stay on to work with work with Mr. Engler as needed throughout the duration of the calendar year.. Minutes from the July 10, 2008 meeting were reviewed. *Doyle Meredith made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Joyce Finkelstein seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.*

Updates

New Credit Freeze Law

Executive Director Melanie Starns discussed the passage of the SB 1185 which was enacted into law on September 1, 2008, and provided an overview of the importance of the credit freeze law in lieu of fraud and identity theft in Arizona. Specifically, Arizona's new security freeze law (ARS 44-1695) enables individuals to put a "freeze" on their credit with all three of the major credit agencies for a \$5.00 fee. This law is beneficial in that it offers protection against identity theft, which is an increasing concern for seniors and children who are most susceptible to having their identity stolen. Additionally, this freeze may be lifted upon the individual's written request, and may also be lifted electronically within fifteen minutes with the use of an individual's assigned PIN number, which is provided by the credit agencies at the time a request for freezing one's credit is put into place. Ms. Pam Stevenson of the Arizona Attorney General's Office

noted the complicated nature of ARS 44-1695, and stated that her office is investigating the current law and statutes pertaining to freezing and unfreezing one's credit in order to provide an easily understandable explanation of the process within the Attorney General's website. Ms. Stevenson also stated that ARS 44-1695 is a major tool for protecting one's credit, and she provided an overview of the proper procedures for reporting identity theft and fraud. Ms. Starns, and Ms. Stevenson alerted the Committee of the resources at hand for educating the public on credit fraud and identity theft, specifically mentioning both the Attorney General's and the Consumer Union's respective websites. Ms. Starns stated that a link to the AG's website, www.azag.gov, will be incorporated into the Council's website within the existing compilation of resources available through that site.

2008 Ballot Initiatives

Ms. Starns stated that the Arizona Supreme Court ruled that the transportation "TIME Initiative" lacked the necessary number of qualified signatures to make it onto the fall ballot.

Proposition 200 Ballot Initiative Presentation

Ms. Kelly Griffith, Deputy Director of the Southwest Center for Economic Integrity, delivered a presentation on Proposition 200, an initiative on the Arizona ballot for fall of 2008. Ms. Griffith's presentation specifically addressed the following:

- An overview of the "pay day" loan process, a brief definition of the type of loan provided through "pay day" lenders, and a description of the interest rates and extensions associated with those loans
- The legislative history of pay day loans in the State of Arizona, including Senate Bill 1266, which effectively exempted "the pay day loan industry from the state's usury law" and "eliminated the previously capped interest rate of 36%"
- An overview of the state's regulatory and ballot initiative efforts that are at the root of the current ballot initiative - Proposition 200, the Payday "reform" Act
- An overview of the Center for Responsible Lending's November, 2006 report on payday lending and the associated costs of lending fees paid by Arizona citizens
- Nationally accepted approaches to address predatory lending.

A question and answer period followed, and a lengthy discussion ensued. Ms. Griffith approved the distribution of her presentational materials for educational purposes. A copy of Ms. Griffith's presentational handout is available through the Council Office.

Discussion on Information Dissemination

The Committee agreed that they will utilize Ms. Griffith's presentation as appropriate, and disseminate the information within as needed to help ensure that older Arizonans receive accurate information about this ballot initiative so that they can make full informed decisions. After much discussion and Council members expressing concern over the risk that such loans put older adults at, Ms. Bernadette Polley put forth the suggestion that the Council draft a letter to Governor Napolitano emphasizing the Council's position on Proposition 200. A discussion ensued, and it was determined that the Committee will make a recommendation to the Council, requesting that they draft a letter to the Governor, asking her to take a public stand on Proposition 200, and to allow the Council to do the same. *Mr. George Evanoff made a motion to*

bring the Committee's recommendation to draft a letter requesting that Governor Napolitano take a public stand against Proposition 200, and allow the Council to do the same.. Ms. Polley seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Disposition of Dental Care Initiative

Deputy Director Cathy De Lisa provided an update on the disposition of the recommendation that the Dental Care for Seniors project be turned over to the Social, Health & Alzheimer's Committee (SHAC). Ms. De Lisa stated that SHAC will be discussing this, as well as two other potential initiatives for that Committee to pursue at their September 4, 2008 meeting, and that she was hopeful that a decision regarding their recommendation for the committee's future focus would be reached at that time. A copy of Ms. De Lisa's presentational handout is available through the Council Office.

Other Updates, New Business, & Announcements

- Ms. Pam Stevenson of the AG's Office noted that her Office was the recipient of a Sear's Consumer Fund Grant. This funding will be used to update the "Senior Protection Guide" for reprinting, and to create educational videos pertaining to senior scams and elder abuse issues.
- Mr. Gregg Kiely of the Arizona Department of Transportation stated that his agency was the recipient of a \$3.7 million dollars in federal grant funds for elderly and disabled transportation - Section 5310 which provides rolling stock vehicles and a small, growing component that includes mobility management.

Action Items

- The Council on Aging staff will incorporate the Attorney General's website, www.azag.gov into the Council's webpage in order to provide additional information and resources on ARS 44-1695 (credit freeze legislation).
- The Legislative and Policy Coordinating Committee will put forth a recommendation to the full Council, asking that they draft a letter to Governor Napolitano requesting that she take a public stand on Proposition 200, and allow the Council to do the same.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Committee Chair Bill Engler at 11:27 a.m.

Next Meeting:

The next Legislative and Policy Coordinating Committee meeting will be October 2, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. in the State Executive Tower, Second Floor Conference Room. These meetings are open to the public.